REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 76-77 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,625,258 to Ram et al. (hereinafter "Ram"). New dependent claims 76 and 77 have been added. With respect to the claims, Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach the elements of the pending claims, and accordingly request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

In particular, Applicant notes that the claims contain an element of a "terminal object." The Examiner states that Ram discloses a server that includes a terminal object: "The server includes a terminal object (physical device) as per [Ram] (col.3, ln.52-63)." (Office Action, pp.2-3, par. 3). It is unclear, however, how the cited section of Ram discloses such a terminal object. The cited section discloses the use of a single or multiple computer servers, with "each of the computer services providing a particular communication service or network function." (Ram, col.3, lns.55-57). Ram also discloses "software instructions are resident upon at least one of the computer servers." *Id.* lns. 58-59. However, Ram does not disclose or even suggest the use of the use of terminal objects. Furthermore, Ram does not disclose or even suggest the use of software objects .

In contrast, Applicant describes software objects generally, and a terminal object specifically, throughout the specification:

> "Software may be designed using many different methods, including object-oriented programming methods. C++ is one example of common object-oriented computer programming languages that provide the functionality

associated with object-oriented programming. Object-oriented programming methods provide a means to encapsulate data members (variables) and member functions (methods) that operate on that data into a single entity called a class. Object-oriented programming methods also provide a means to create new classes based on existing classes.

"An object is an instance of a class. The data members of an object are attributes that are stored inside the computer memory, and the methods are executable computer code that acts upon this data, along with potentially providing other services. The notion of an object is exploited in the present invention in that certain aspects of the invention are implemented as objects in one embodiment."

Specification, p.8, lns.16-29.

"The terminal object 204 is a type of media control object. A media control object is an object that end-points the media stream of a computer telephony call. The media stream of a computer telephony call is the information that actually makes up the call -- for example, audio information in the case of a voice call, audio and image (video) information in the case of a video call, etc. A media control object end-points the media stream in that it can be a sink object, which is a finishing end point such as speaker or a monitor where the media stream ends or is "sunk" after it has been communicated from one party to the call to another party to the call, or a source object, which is a beginning end point such as a microphone or a speaker where the media stream begins or is "sourced" such that it is then communicated from one party to the call to another party to the call. The terminal object 204 can represent physical devices, such as the microphone or speakers on a sound card, a video camera, and a phone, as well as more dynamic, virtual devices, such as a video window on the screen, a file to which the media stream is saved, and a DTMF (Dual Tone Multiple Frequency) detector."

Id. p.10, ln.24 – p.11, ln.10.

In fact, Applicant discloses an "object hierarchy." (*Id.*, p.19, lns.13-27, and accompanying Fig.8). The object hierarchy provides advantages not found in Ram:

> "[T]he invention provides for an object-based hierarchy to TAPI's (e.g., via the call control objects and the media control objects), to maximize flexibility an further expansion of TAPI's based on the invention."
>
> *Id.* p.3, lns.28-31.

Ram does not disclose the use of software objects, let alone in this manner to achieve these advantages. In particular, Ram does not teach or suggest the use of a terminal object to represent a physical device, such as a microphone, speakers, video camera, virtual physical device, etc.

For these reasons, the cited art omits at least one significant element of independent claims 1 and 6. Furthermore, because dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 76-77 incorporate all the limitations of their respective base claims, the cited art omits at least one element of these dependent claims as well. Applicants therefore respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 and 76-77.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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